



Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Training Methodology**

Type of practice: **Best Practice**

Country: **Bulgaria**

April, 2014

Title of practice	Comprehensive Online e-Learning Strategy
Key features:	<p>In Bulgaria a judicial and legal environment that is characterised by constant change, the need for a reliable, up-to-date and easily-accessible source of information led the Bulgarian Academy to establish two web-based information tools – the Extranet and the Discussion forum.</p> <p>Since their creation in 2009, these tools have been widely used. Both play a supporting role in the training process and have proven to be cost-effective, because they were built upon an open code training system.</p> <p>The Extranet was designed as a communication tool to serve magistrates when issues arise in the area of European law. After registering with the system, every magistrate can use the resources on the Extranet, including practical training materials (court decisions, assignments and exercises, used during their 9-month training at the NIJ).</p> <p>The Discussion Forum was created together with the Distance Learning Portal and integrates an overall distance learning strategy on training.</p> <p>It encourages discussion of topical questions on any subject relating to future or completed courses. Previous active participation in the discussion forum during training activities is a criterion for the award of a Certificate of Completion.</p> <p>Distance learning courses usually take three to four months to complete. During this time, participants have online contact with one another, can access the information from any convenient location and better manage the time they are willing to dedicate to training, while exercising overall control over the learning process.</p> <p>To complement all of the above, the NIJ is planning to purchase e-books with financial support from the EU.</p>

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<p><i>Other comments</i></p>	<p>The above-described practice has demonstrated a very high level of efficiency as it has brought a variety of added value to the training, besides being cost- effective.</p> <p>It may be considered a BEST PRACTICE to be adopted wherever possible.</p>

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "Lot 1 – Study on best practices in training judges and prosecutors", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)